



21st February 2022

Mr. Cian O'Callaghan TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 8651/22 - To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the community mental health team servicing north Dublin cannot take referrals for adult ADHD assessments due to not having the capacity and expertise and is advising persons to wait for the commencement of the National Clinical Programme or to seek private healthcare; the steps he is taking to resolve the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter – **Cian O'Callaghan TD**

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above PQ which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I wish to advise our Mental Health Adult Community Services continue to accept and treat people referred with ADHD who are known to have high rates of co-morbid mental health disorders, particularly anxiety and depression but assessment and prescribing in respect of ADHD is currently not provided by our community mental health services.

The assessment and treatment of ADHD in adults has been prioritised by HSE Mental Health, Clinical Design and Innovation and the College of Psychiatry of Ireland for development as a Clinical Programme due to the absence of such services in Ireland. This programme is currently being developed, with the hope that specialist teams will be put in place to assist the provision of access to diagnosis and treatment for adults with ADHD. The Executive Clinical Directors for Mental Health within Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County are engaged in discussions with the National Clinical Programme to secure an adult ADHD service for our CHO.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Walsh
Head of Service Mental Health
CHO Dublin North City & County